

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings and versions:

1. (currently amended): A non-naturally-occurring protein comprising a modified plant zinc finger protein (ZFP), the modified plant ZFP having a modified amino acid sequence as compared to a naturally occurring plant ZFP and comprising a tandem array of a plurality of zinc fingers, wherein there are between about 5 and 50 amino acids between adjacent zinc fingers of the modified plant ZFP, and further wherein the modified plant zinc finger protein is engineered to bind to a target sequence.
2. (previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the target sequence is a nucleic acid sequence.
3. (previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.
4. (previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein the target sequence is 3 or more contiguous nucleotides.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 5, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers of the ZFP are obtained by rational design.
7. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 5, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers of the ZFP are obtained by selection.
8. (previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 7, wherein selection is phage display, interaction trap, ribosome display or RNA-peptide fusion.
9. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 5, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers comprise canonical C₂H₂ zinc fingers.

10. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 ~~5~~, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers comprise non-canonical zinc fingers.

11. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 ~~5~~, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers are derived from two or more plant species.

12 to 13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 further encoding a functional domain selected from the group consisting of p300, CBP, PCAF, SRC1, PvALF, ERF-2, OsGAI, HALF-1, C1, AP1, ARF-5, ARF-6, ARF-7, ARF-8, CPRF1, CPRF4, MYC-RP/GP, and TRAB1.

15 to 16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a modified plant zinc finger protein according to claim 1.

18. (original) An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 17.

19. (original) A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 17.

20. (canceled).

21. (new): A non-naturally-occurring protein comprising a modified plant zinc finger protein (ZFP) engineered to bind to a target sequence, the modified plant zinc finger protein comprising a plurality of zinc fingers, each zinc finger comprising an amino acid recognition region which binds to a target subsite of the target sequence, wherein the modification comprises one or more amino acid substitutions in the recognition region of one or more of the zinc fingers of the modified plant ZFP as compared to a naturally occurring plant zinc finger protein.

22. (new): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a modified plant zinc finger protein according to claim 21.

23. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein the target sequence is a nucleic acid sequence.

24. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.

25. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein the target sequence is 3 or more contiguous nucleotides.

26. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein the modified zinc finger protein comprises a tandem array of zinc fingers.

27. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers of the ZFP are obtained by rational design.

28. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers of the ZFP are obtained by selection.

29. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 28, wherein selection is phage display, interaction trap, ribosome display or RNA-peptide fusion.

30. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers comprise canonical C₂H₂ zinc fingers.

31. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers comprise non-canonical zinc fingers.

32. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, wherein one or more of the zinc fingers are derived from two or more plant species.

33. (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 22, further encoding a functional domain selected from the group consisting of p300, CBP, PCAF, SRC1, P/CAF, ERF-2, OsGAI, HALF-1, C1, AP1, ARF-5, ARF-6, ARF-7, ARF-8, CPRF1, CPRF4, MYC-RP/GP, and TRAF1.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

A telephone interview with Examiners Collins and Nelson was held by the undersigned on May 20, 2004. During the interview, all of the outstanding rejections were discussed and Examiners Collins and Nelson suggested several claim amendments that would address all the remaining rejections. It was agreed that an RCE and amendment would be filed.